

Film festival celebrates beauty and wonder of the natural world

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — For the seventh year, the Blue Mountain Land Trust, based in Walla Walla, Washington, has partnered with the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) to bring the Wild & Scenic Film Festival to the Blue Mountain region.

Last year, because of the pandemic, the Land Trust canceled its in-person presentation of the festival and instead hosted the films online that were viewed by more than 3,400 guests, according to a press release.

This year, the festival will again be online. The premier presentation will be streamed live Thursday, April 1, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

During the live event, guests can enjoy the films, chat with other audience members, and vie to win door prizes, all from the comfort of home. A recorded version of the festival will be available online through April 6.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival celebrates the beauty and wonder of the natural world and inspires audiences everywhere to take action to protect it, according to the press release.

The yearly festival raises funds that go directly to fostering the science, advocacy, activism and education that are crucial to keeping rivers healthy and beautiful.

Blue Mountain Land Trust's executive director, Tim Copeland, said in the release, "The festival is a natural extension of the Land Trust's work to inspire people to act on behalf of the environment. Our work at Blue Mountain Land Trust is more than just conserving land; it connects people to the land.

"Building a stewardship ethic in the communities we serve is vital to ensuring the long-term success of land conservation. Natural resources education opportunities like the Wild & Scenic Film Festival help build this connection."

Among the films featured at this year's festival are "Here We Stand," a film from Theresa Baker and Save the Redwoods League about improving inclusivity in the outdoors, and "Common Ground," which shows how water can bring together the interests of tribes, ranchers and government to work toward a common goal. Also, "A Message from the Future of Paradise" reflects on the potential rebuilding process of a community destroyed by fire, providing a model for others.

To register for the April 1 film festival, visit bmlt.org/wild2021. Tickets start at \$20. Local dining packages are available in Walla Walla, John Day and Pendleton.

For more information, contact Katy Rizzuti at katy@bmlt.org.



Blue Mountain Land Trust/Contributed Photos

"Here We Stand" (above) and "Common Ground" (below center) are two of the featured films in the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, a virtual event hosted April 1 by the Blue Mountain Land Trust.



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